

**王ドロボウJING**  
KING OF BANDITS  
JING  
TOKYOPOP®



Y U I C H I K U M A K U R A

KING OF BANDITS

# 王ドロボウJING



10

## As INTENSE As The RISING SUN

Will mysterious contestant be Zaza's next heir? A strange assassin appeared at Sunday's Masccorrida, the likes of which the tournament had never seen.

The mysterious gladiator, enshrouded in armor so dark that it appeared his entire body was made of steel, left a most ominous and foreboding impression upon the crowd.

The origins of this warrior, who just barely made the deadline for this year's match, are almost completely unknown. If we are to believe the few words the warrior has spoken of himself, his most recent living was as a mercenary in the East.

Certainly he has taken the city of Zaza by storm. His name seems as sure to rise as champion just as the sun is sure to rise in the East.

(From a local Zaza Newspaper)



All that glitters...

Even the stars

All things precious...

Even your life



エドロボウ  
JING  
新装版  
FIVE

*jing&stir*



The King of Bandits

Can steal it all

In the blink of an eye

# JING: KING OF BANDITS

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Once upon a midnight dreary, a thief named Jing was weak and weary.  
Many strange and forgotten lands he did traverse and explore.  
His companion was a bird named Kir, his black wings a-flapping,  
While Jing nodded, nearly napping, Kir saw booty galore.  
"Wake up, Jing," Kir muttered, "all around us is loot galore."  
Treasure from ceiling to floor!

Thus, this ebony bird's willing, sent Jing's sad face into smiling,  
For Jing could steal the stars from the sky, thievery he truly did adore.  
The albatross sat proudly on Jing's placid bosom, his beady eyes did implore,  
One more thing Kir did utter, his feathers all a greedy flutter, his voice a roar:  
"Gloat the albatross, 'Let's steal some more!'"



*juggling the dreams*



*jing in a rage*



In this corner...

A weak loser!

In this corner...

A strong loser!

over the top of 3435



Z A Z A の 仮 面 舞 踏 会 編



19th SHOT - ZAZA'S MASQUERADE

And once again,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
The winner is--  
The Madame!



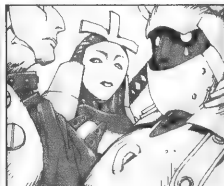
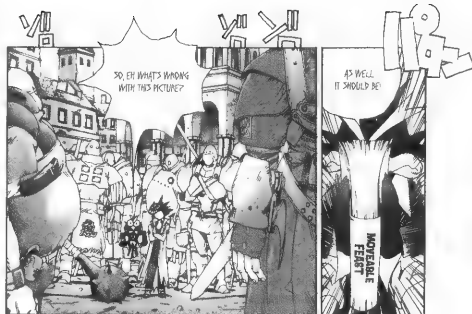
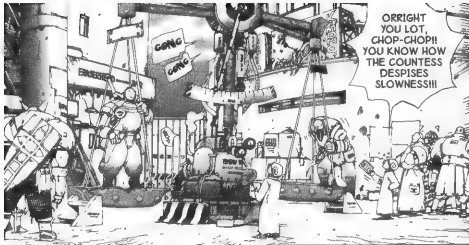
AS ITS NAME IMPLIES, THE FESTIVAL REQUIRES EACH OF ITS OVER FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PARTICIPANTS TO WEAR SOME SORT OF MASK. IN FACT, ONE OF ZAZA'S MORE REMOTE SUBURBS MAKES ITS ENTIRE LIVING BY TRYING ON MASKS TO BE USED FOR THIS BALL. THE ORIGIN OF THE MASQUERADE, A TERM WHICH HAS COME TO BE UNDERSTOOD WORLDWIDE AS A MASKED BALL, IS NOT CERTAIN. HOWEVER, RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE PRACTICE ACTUALLY HAILS FROM THIS TOWN'S ORIGINAL PHILOSOPHY OF FELLOWSHIP. THAT WHEN MASKS ARE WORN, THE DISTINCTIONS OF RACE AND SOCIAL STANDING ARE ELIMINATED. IRONICALLY ENOUGH, THE FESTIVAL HAS TODAY BECOME SYNONYMOUS WITH SPECTACLE. THE CITY'S LABYRINTH-LIKE STREETS NOW OVERFLOW EACH YEAR WITH THE EXCHANGE OF ORNATE MASKS AND FANTASTIC JEWELS WITH WHICH FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS MAY ADORN THEMSELVES TO VIE FOR THE DISTINCTION OF MOST SPLENDID, A COMPETITION THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY COMMON.

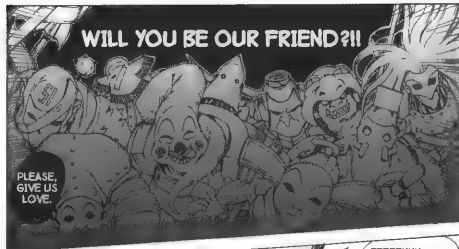
— FROM A MOVEABLE FEAST GUIDE, PARABOLA KNIGHTS EDITION

A GRAND FESTIVAL  
HELD EACH AUTUMN,  
WHEN THE CLOUDS TURN RED  
IN THE SEASIDE CITY OF ZAZA.

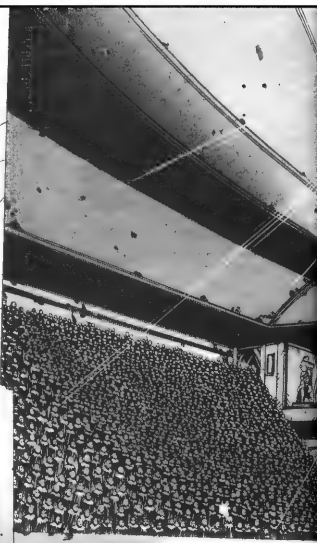
THE  
ZAZA  
MASQUERADE



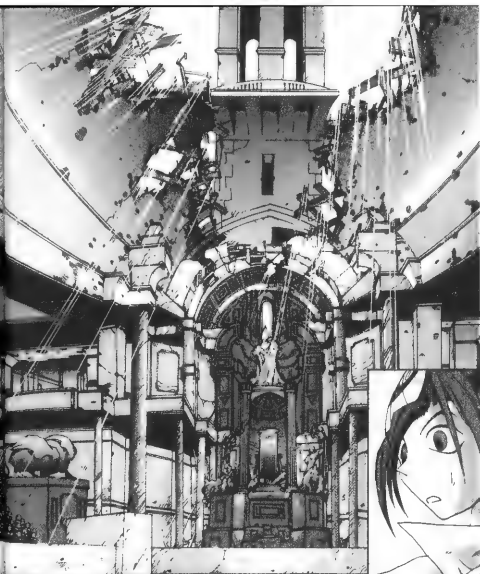




GENTLEMEN...  
LADIES, FOR THE  
PAST YEAR, ALL  
THOSE WITHIN  
OUR CITY... MAY  
AROUND THE  
WORLD... HAVE  
EAGERLY AWAITED  
THIS DAY... THE  
DAY THE MASKED  
ARENA WOULD  
BE HELD ONCE  
MORE!!



SO WHERE IS THIS  
MASQUEMADE THING  
EVERYONE'S BEEN  
TALKING ABOUT?



W-WAIT A MINUTE  
WHERE'S MY SPLENDID  
ORNAMENTS JING?  
WHERE'S MY JEWELS?







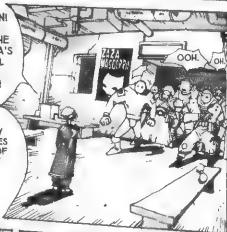




ORRRIGHT, MEN!  
ALL THOSE  
AIMIN' FOR THE  
RANK OF ZAZA'S  
NEXT FEUDAL  
LORD--THIS  
MEANS YOU!!

NOW, ARE  
ANY OF YOU SHINY  
BUT ROTTEN APPLES  
UP TO THE TASK OF  
BEING THE NOBLE  
COUNTESS' NEW  
SON?!!

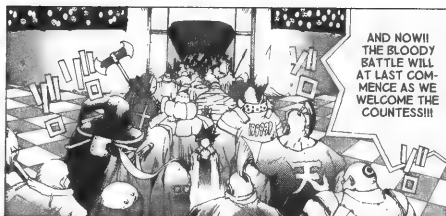
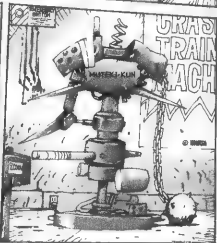
*Train as if your life  
depends upon it...it does.*



RIGHT, THEN!  
YOU--AND  
YOU--ARE  
OUR FIRST  
CONTESTANTS!!

DAH...  
OKAY.

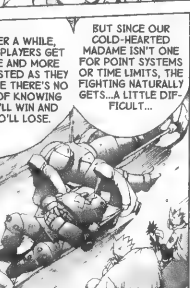
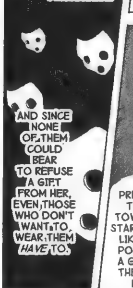
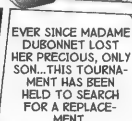
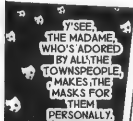
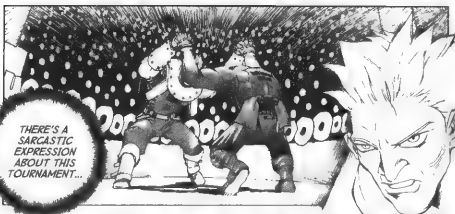
LET'S  
GO!!!



AND NOW!!  
THE BLOODY  
BATTLE WILL  
AT LAST COM-  
MENCE AS WE  
WELCOME THE  
COUNTESS!!!



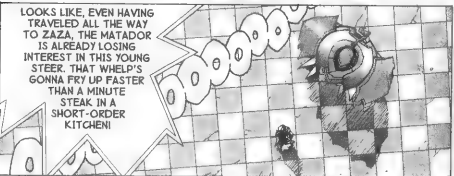
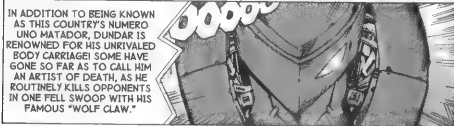




AND, NOW...  
AT LONG LAST...  
OUR MOST  
POWERFUL  
CANDIDATE  
YET!!!!!!!!!!!!

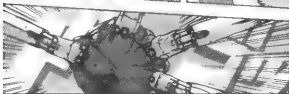
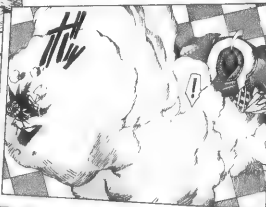






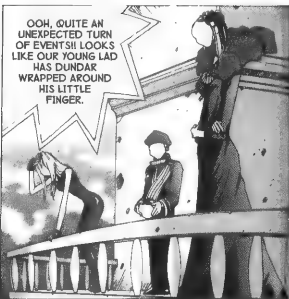


I'VE  
GOT YOU  
NOW!!



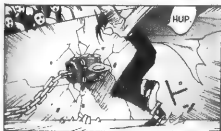
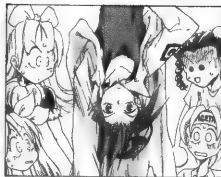


OOH, QUITE AN  
UNEXPECTED TURN  
OF EVENTS!! LOOKS  
LIKE OUR YOUNG LAD  
HAS DUNDAR  
WRAPPED AROUND  
HIS LITTLE  
FINGER.



AW, PUT  
A CORK  
IN IT!!!

M...  
MADEMOISELLE...  
WATCH OUT!



HUP



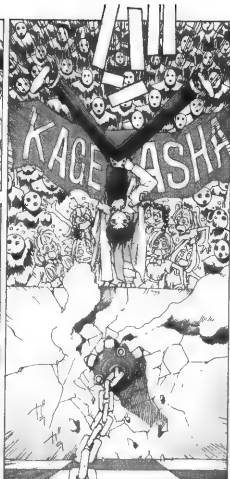
LOOKS  
LIKE I'M  
PRETTY HOT  
TONIGHT!

Not everyone  
gets a line from the  
slightly bawdy!



NOWWWW  
THEN...ANYTHING  
ELSE FOR YOUR  
BIGGEST FAN?

I'm guessing  
you've given up  
handshakes!



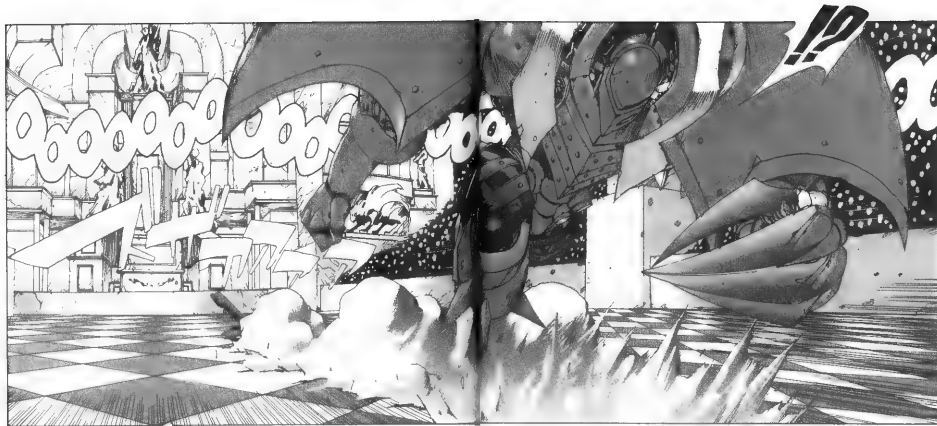
KAGE ASHA

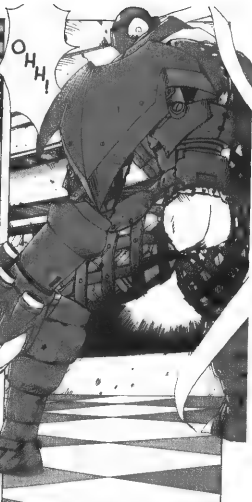
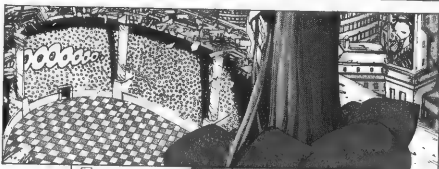
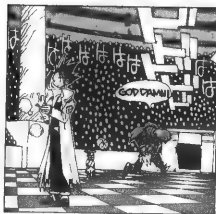
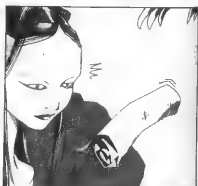
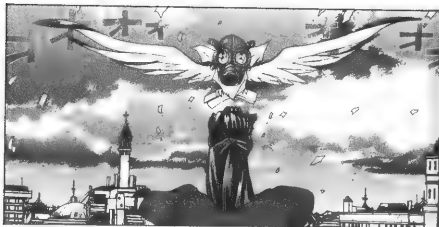


WHY  
YOU...

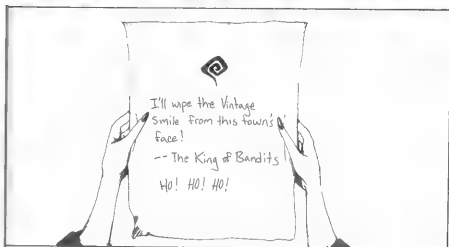
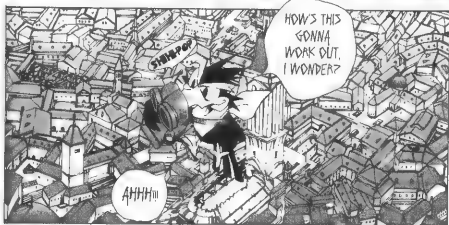
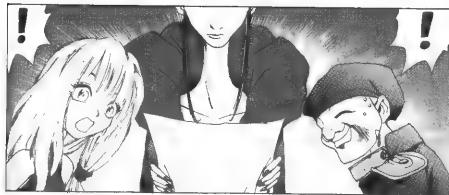
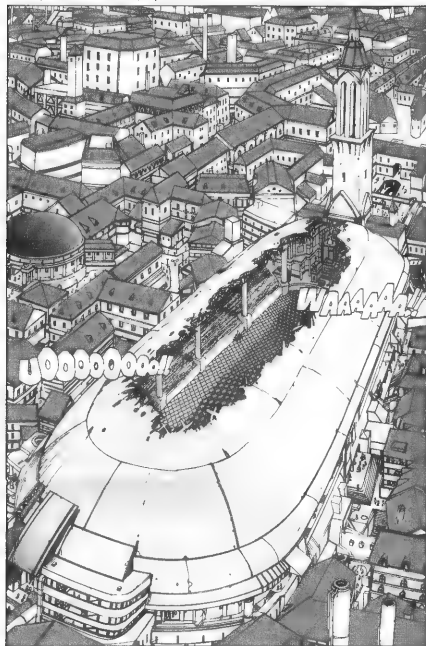
LITTLE...



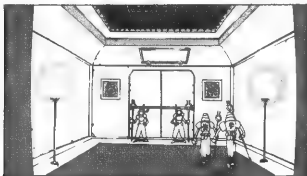


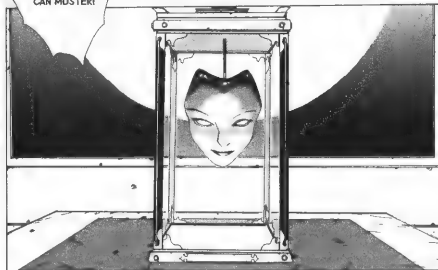
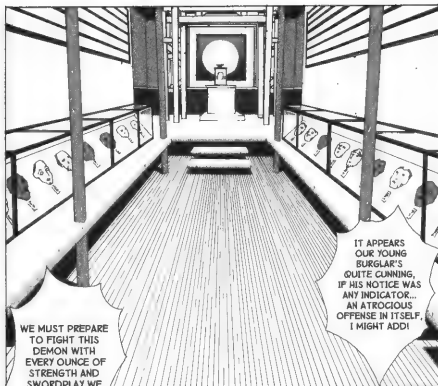
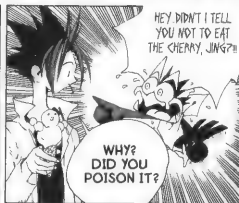
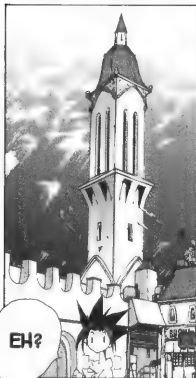


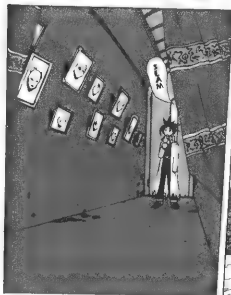
# 20th SHOT - Vintage Smile





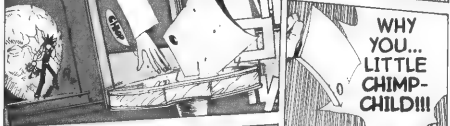
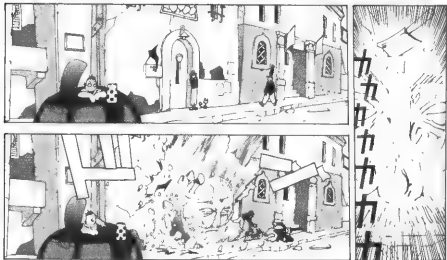
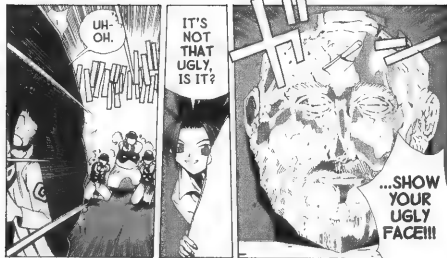


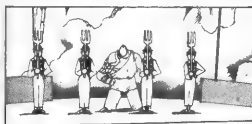
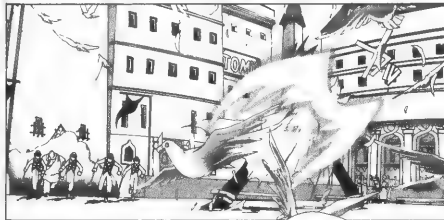
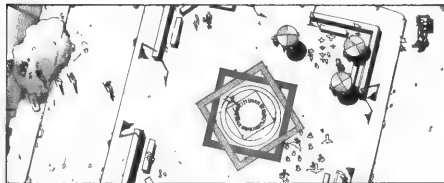






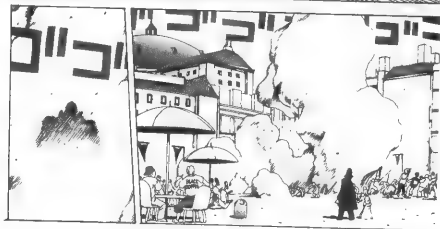
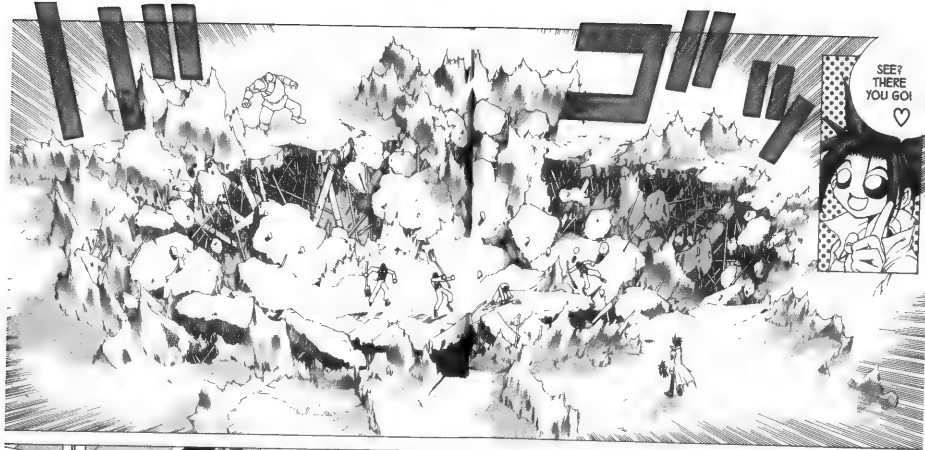




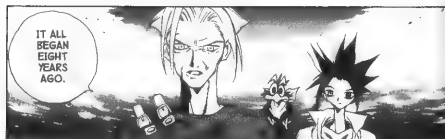












IT ALL  
BEGAN  
EIGHT  
YEARS  
AGO.

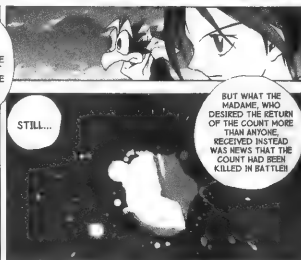


IT WAS  
WIDELY ASSUMED  
THAT THE END OF  
THE GREAT WAR,  
WHICH HAD STRETCHED  
OVER MANY YEARS,  
WAS ABOUT TO BE  
ANNOUNCED.

THE PEOPLE WERE  
CERTAIN THAT PEACE  
WOULD FINALLY COME  
TO ZAZA... AND THAT  
OUR WISE MONARCH,  
COUNT DUBONNET,  
WOULD RETURN.



...THE MADAME  
WAS NOT ONE TO  
GIVE EVEN SPARE TIME  
OVER TO TEARS... BUT  
THE DEVIL TOOK CARE  
OF THAT WITH HIS  
NEXT TRAGEDY.

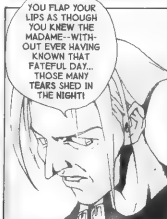


STILL...

BUT WHAT THE  
MADAME, WHO  
DESIRED THE RETURN  
OF THE COUNT MORE  
THAN ANYONE,  
RECEIVED INSTEAD  
WAS NEWS THAT THE  
COUNT HAD BEEN  
KILLED IN BATTLE!



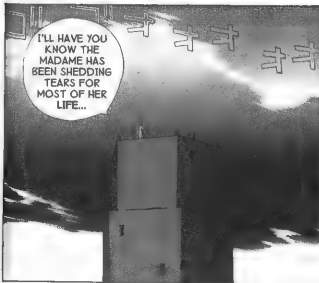
WA-WA-  
WAH--



YOU FLAP YOUR  
LIPS AS THOUGH  
YOU KNEW THE  
MADAME--WITH-  
OUT EVER HAVING  
KNOWN THAT  
FATEFUL DAY...  
THOSE MANY  
TEARS SHED IN  
THE NIGHT!



WHAT  
CAN  
YOU  
KNOW  
ABOUT  
IT?!!!



I'LL HAVE YOU  
KNOW THE  
MADAME HAS  
BEEN SHEDDING  
TEARS FOR  
MOST OF HER  
LIFE...



YOU MEAN...  
BY MADAME  
POKER FACE?



HOW...  
HOW  
COULD  
THOSE  
MEN...



LEMON...  
LEMON...  
SOB...  
SOB...  
SOB...



VERY  
WELL...  
IF THAT  
IS WHAT  
THEY  
PREFER  
...

...CHOOSE...  
FIGHTING...  
OVER  
LIVING?



...THEY  
CAN HAVE  
ALL THE  
BATTLES  
THEY  
WANT!



...AND THE  
MURDERER WAS THE  
BABY'S UNCLE! NOT  
THAT HE WAS THE ONLY  
WICKED RELATIVE WHO  
HAD CONSPIRED TO  
DETHRONE HIM. MANY  
HAD DREAMED OF  
TAKING HIS PLACE  
AS HEIR.



MEANWHILE,  
THE MADAME HAD  
LOST HER LOVING  
HUSBAND AND  
CHERISHED SON,  
ONE AFTER THE  
OTHER!



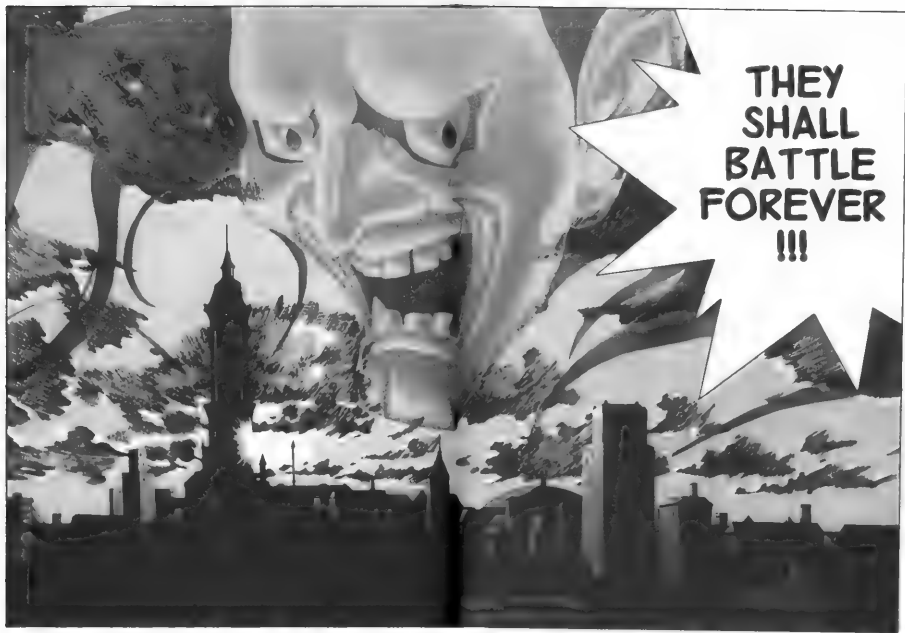
MADAME'S  
YOUNG SON, LEMON,  
WAS FOUND DEAD...  
KILLED BY POISON!!  
THE CHILD WAS ONLY  
THREE YEARS OF  
AGE...

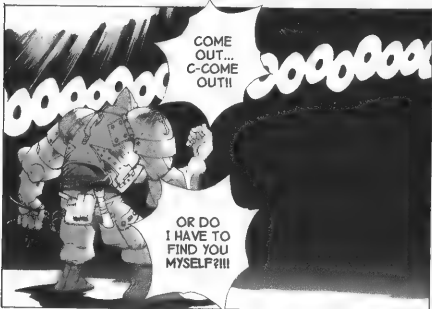


...HAUNTS  
MY MEMORY  
TO THIS  
DAY!!

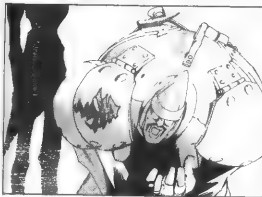
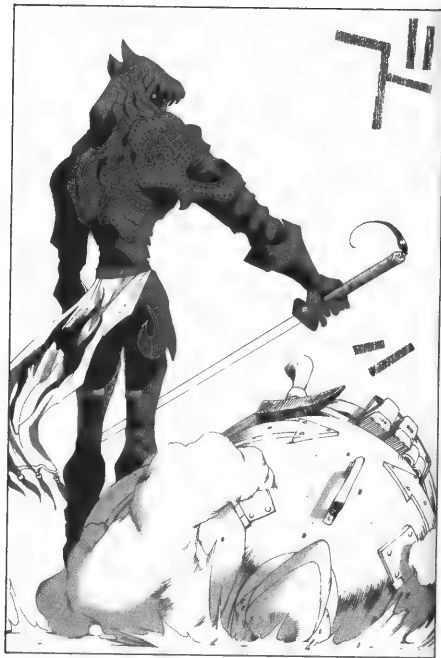


THE PATHETIC  
FIGURE OF THE  
COUNTESS ON  
THAT NIGHT...





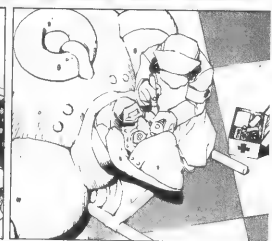
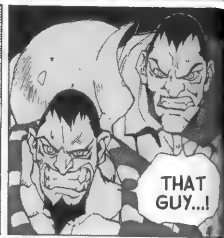
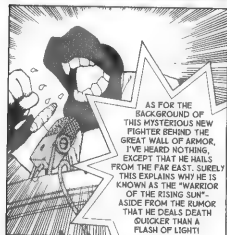
FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, THE MASKED BALL THAT WAS HELD EACH YEAR WAS SWITCHED TO THE FORM OF A FIGHTING ARENA...

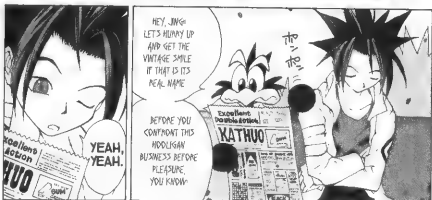


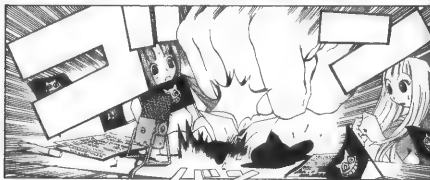
# KING OF BANDIT JING













YO.



HEY THERE!!

SO, WE MEET AGAIN! WITH YA IN JUST A BIT.

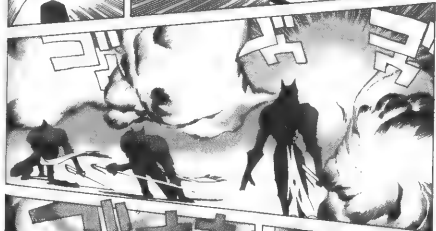
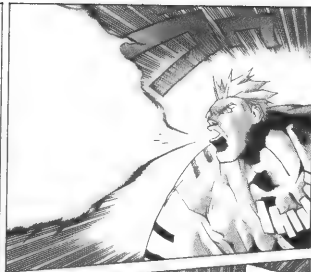
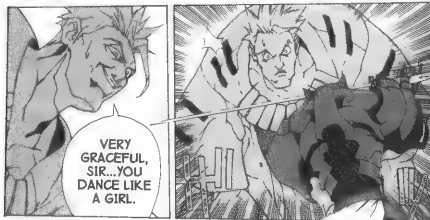
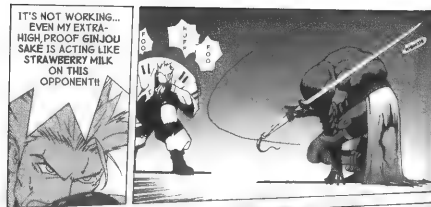


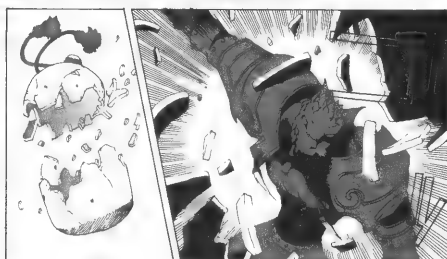
JUDGE

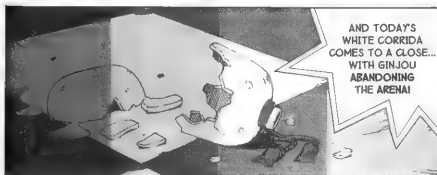
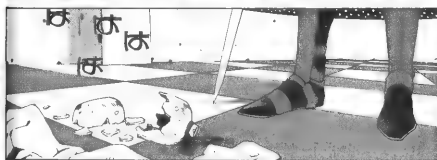
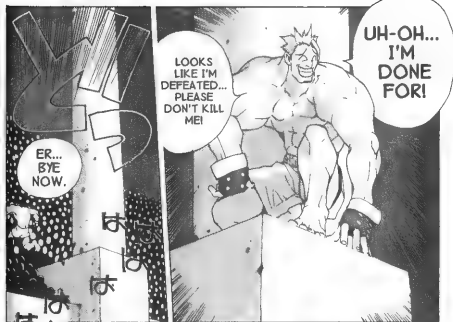
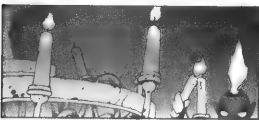
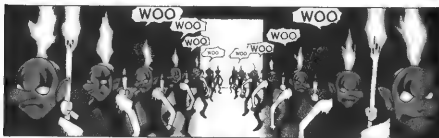
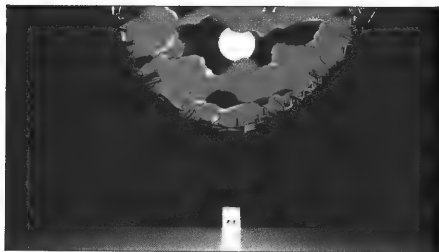
AND... FIGHT!!!!



...AND HERE COMES THE CHALLENGER WHO WILL FACE HIM... GINJOU!!

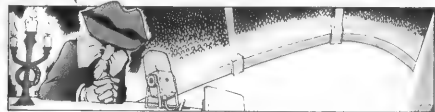
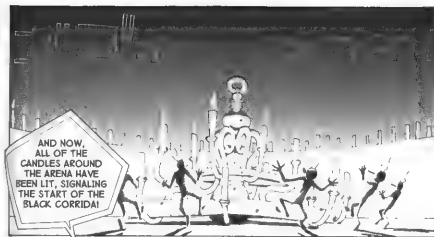




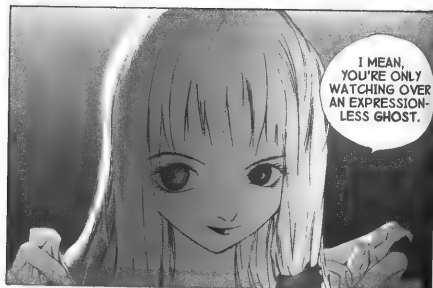


!!?

WHAT  
IS IT?







I MEAN,  
YOU'RE ONLY  
WATCHING OVER  
AN EXPRESSION-  
LESS GHOST.



ANGO-  
STURA...  
WHAT IS IT  
YOU WANT  
WITH ME?

WHAT?



ER...  
S-SORRY  
TO B-BARGE  
IN LIKE  
TH-TH-  
THAT!!



YOU'RE  
SUCH A  
GOODY  
TWO-  
SHOES.



I AM  
CONVINCED  
THAT I CAN SEE  
THE MADAME'S  
EMOTIONS, EVEN  
IF I CANNOT SEE  
HER FACIAL  
EXPRESSIONS.



THIS IS A  
DECORATION  
FROM MOTHER...  
ISN'T IT? SHE  
GAVE YOU THIS  
MEDAL A WHILE  
AGO, RIGHT?



WHAT'S  
THIS?

AH!



PHEW.

WHAT A  
RELIEF...  
NEARLY  
BLEW MY  
COVER THERE.

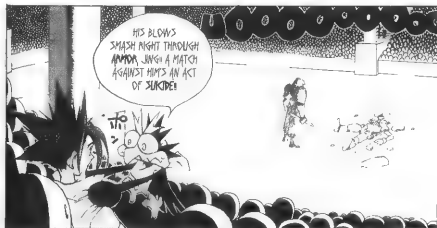
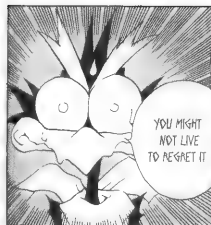
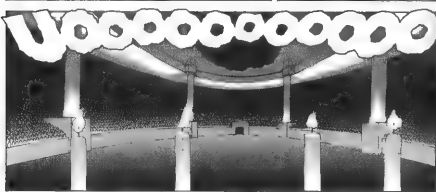
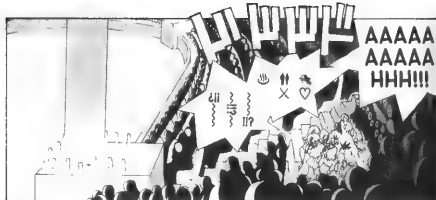


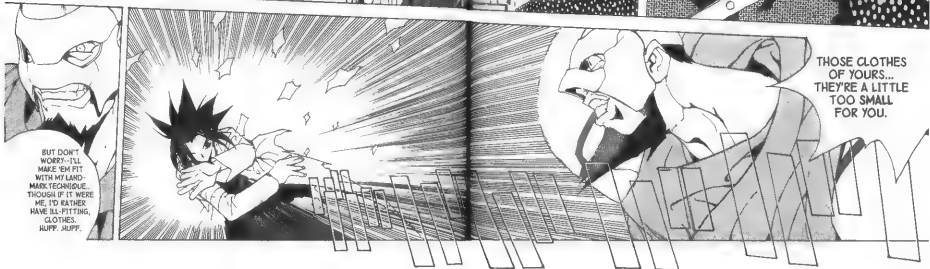
Y-YES.

SO, WHAT  
IS IT? DOES  
THE MADAME  
REQUEST MY  
PRESENCE?

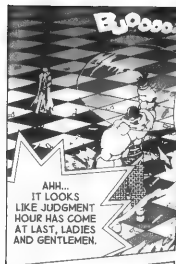


I CAN'T  
BELIEVE YOU  
CARRY IT  
AROUND.









AHH...  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE JUDGMENT  
HOUR HAS COME  
AT LAST, LADIES  
AND GENTLEMEN.



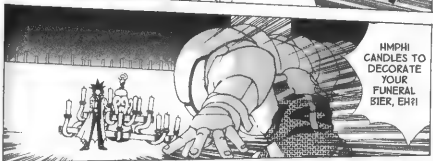
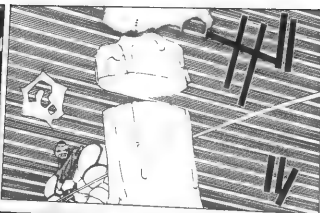
STAYING  
UP LATE  
AND PLAYING  
WITH FIRE...  
WHAT A  
NAUGHTY  
CHILD YOU  
ARE!!



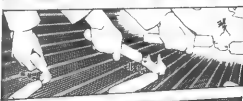
...I'LL  
REDESIGN  
HIS  
SUNDAY  
BEST--IN  
DEEPEST  
RED!!

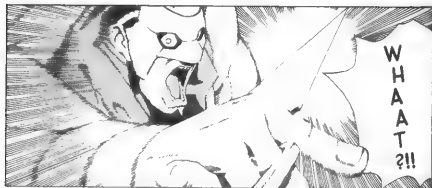


IF BLADES  
SPINNING AT  
SUCH A HIGH  
SPEED CAN'T  
DO THAT  
LAD IN...



HMPH!  
CANDLES TO  
DECORATE  
YOUR  
FUNERAL  
SIEG, EH?!

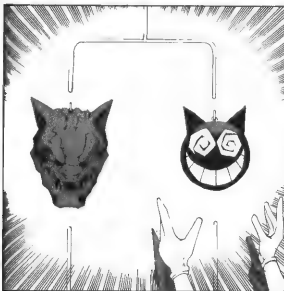






# As Intense as the Rising Sun! Will Mystery Contestant be Zaza's Next Heir?

A strange assassin appeared at Zaza's tournament, the likes of which the tournament had never seen. The mysterious gladiator, enshrouded in armor so dark that it appeared his entire body was made of steel, left a most unusual and foreboding impression upon the crowd. The origins of this warrior who just barely made the deadline for this year's match, are completely unknown. If we are to believe the few words the warrior has spoken of himself, his most recent living was as a mercenary in the East. Since the candidate's face is well-hidden inside that strongly built armor, it is impossible to read his expressions. Still, this somehow only intensifies the impression of sheer determination that radiates from his entire body. What is certain is that no other contestant has been able to withstand his advance in the rounds, and currently no other candidate will face him willingly. Certainly he has taken the city of Zaza by storm. This man seems as sure to rise as champion as the sun is sure to rise in the East.





# KING OF BANDIT JING



MAS-CORRIDA IN ZAZA

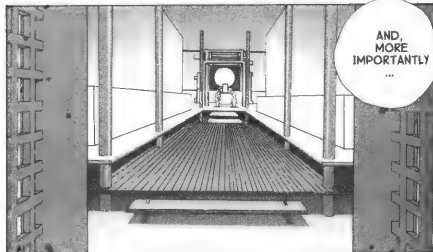
22nd SHOT--AT THE END OF A DESPERATE STRUGGLE

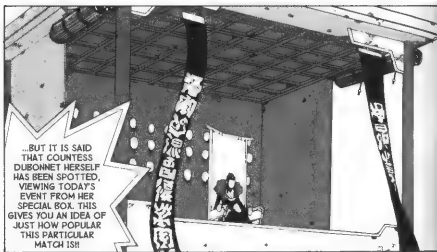
yoichi kumakura

It is easy to see how one of the  
caliber would become known as  
the Warrior of the Rising Sun.

(From a local Zaza Newspaper)



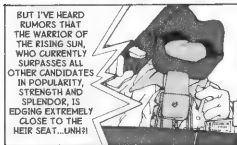




...BUT IT IS SAID THAT COUNTESS DUBONNET HERSELF HAS BEEN SPOTTED, VIEWING TODAY'S EVENT FROM HER SPECIAL BOX. THIS GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF JUST HOW POPULAR THIS PARTICULAR MATCH IS!



AND NOW, ONLY HISTORY WILL DECIDE... WHICH ONE OF THESE TWO WARRIORS WILL BECOME THE NEXT HEIR OF ZAZA?!



BUT I'VE HEARD RUMORS THAT THE WARRIOR OF THE RISING SUN, WHO CURRENTLY SURPASSES ALL OTHER CANDIDATES IN POPULARITY, STRENGTH AND SPLENDOR, IS EDGING EXTREMELY CLOSE TO THE HEIR SEAT...UNH?!



OF COURSE, THERE IS ONE MORE CANDIDATE WHO COULD STEAL THE THRONE FROM BOTH OF THEM. WE CANNOT FORGET BAFLE D. ICE, WHO HAS ALSO ADVANCED TO THE FINALS!!

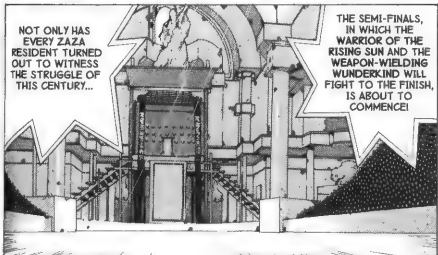


WAUGH!!

JUST HOW THIS MATCH WILL TURN OUT, NO ONE KNOWS. BUT THIS IS THE MOMENT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, FOLKS... THE CLASH OF THE DARK HORSES!

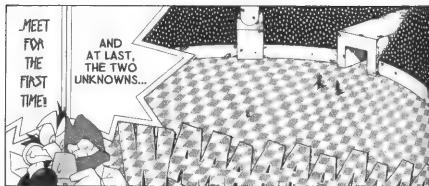


...THE BRAT IS A DEAD RINGER FOR THE COUNT IN HIS YOUNGER DAYS.

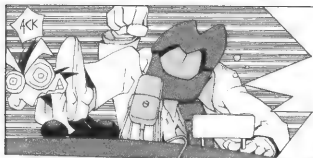


NOT ONLY HAS EVERY ZAZA RESIDENT TURNED OUT TO WITNESS THE STRUGGLE OF THIS CENTURY...

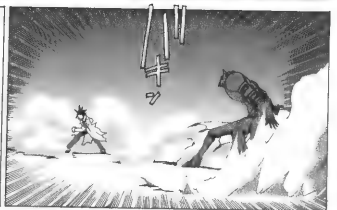
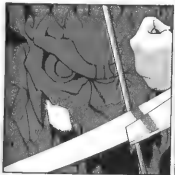
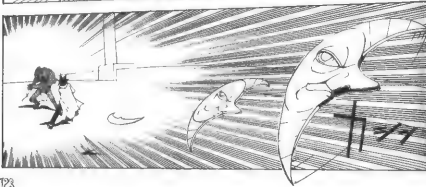
THE SEMI-FINALS, IN WHICH THE WARRIOR OF THE RISING SUN AND THE WEAPON-WIELDING WUNDERKIND WILL FIGHT TO THE FINISH, IS ABOUT TO COMMENCE!

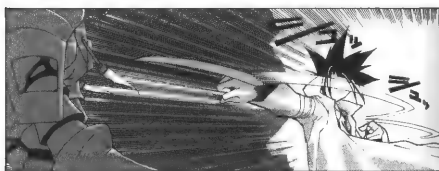


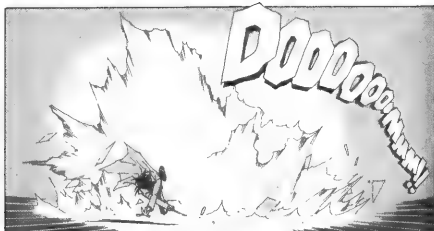




OOOH--  
A SUDDEN,  
HEAD-ON  
COLLISION!!  
MANEUVERING AT  
LIGHTNING SPEED,  
NEITHER OF THESE  
CONTESTANTS IS  
EVEN THINKING OF  
INQUIRING ABOUT  
HIS OPPONENT'S  
HEALTH!!!







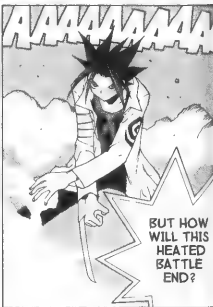
I DON'T THINK SO-  
THE KATANA'S REPUTATION  
STEMS FROM NOTHING BUT  
APOCATACTIC ~~POPOGANDHI~~  
CRYING WINE AND SELLING  
VINEGAR IF YOU ASK ME!



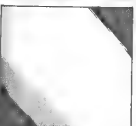
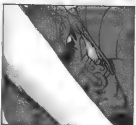
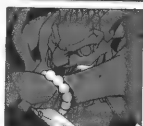
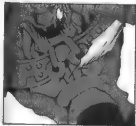
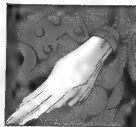
AMAZING!! THAT  
SWORDPLAY HAS THE  
EXCELLENCE OF ONE  
HUNDRED SOLDIERS SOUND  
ITI SURELY, OUR FRIEND  
FROM THE LAND OF THE  
RISING SUN IS DISPLAYING  
THE STRENGTH THAT  
EARNED HIM HIS NAME! DO  
WE HAVE A MATCH?



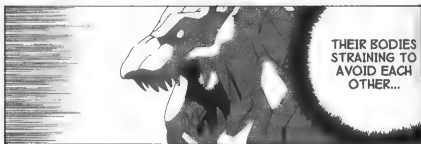
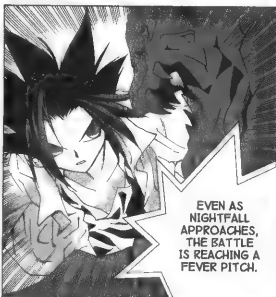
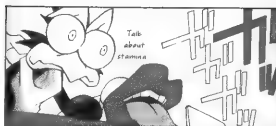
NOTHING  
TO DO  
BUT  
WATCH  
AND  
LEARN!!



BUT HOW  
WILL THIS  
HEATED  
BATTLE  
END?

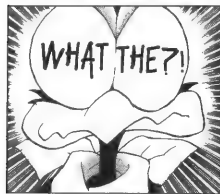


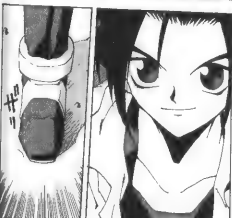
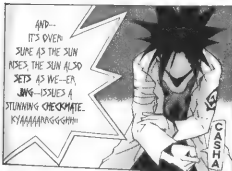
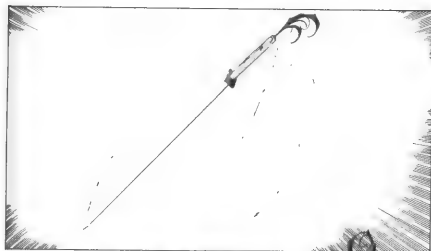


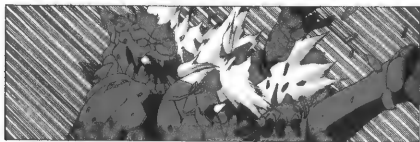


...ALMOST  
LIKE DANCERS  
AT A BALL.

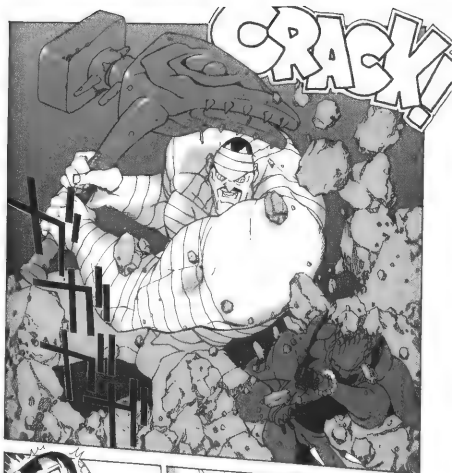






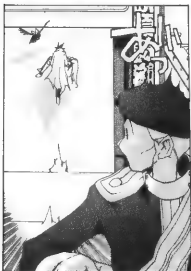


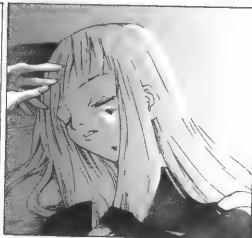
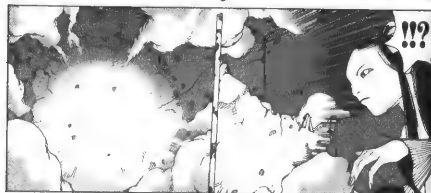
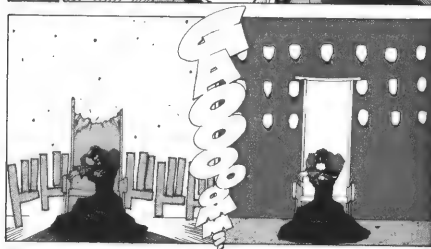
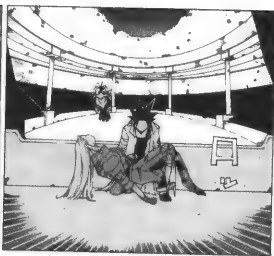
IT...IT  
CAN'T  
BE...



CUBE  
?!!

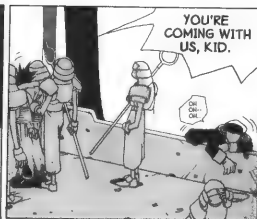






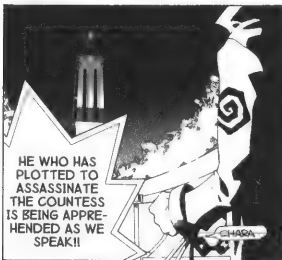








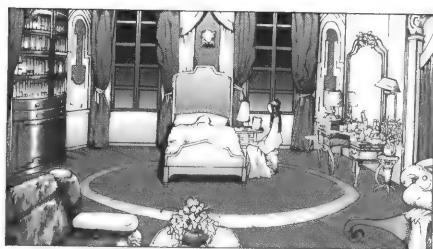
WHAT,  
STIR?!  
WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?!



HE WHO HAS  
PLOTTED TO  
ASSASSINATE  
THE COUNTESS  
IS BEING APPRE-  
HENDED AS WE  
SPEAK!!



HE HAS  
COME FORTH!!  
AT LAST...THE  
INSTIGATOR  
HAS COME  
FORTH!!



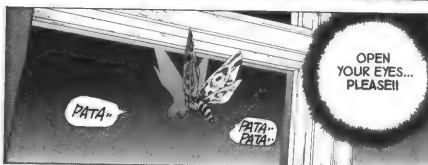
ANSWER ME,  
STIR!



HOW...  
HOW  
COULD YOU  
DO SUCH  
A THING?



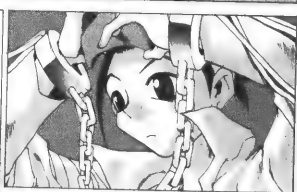
STIR...



PATA..

PATA..  
PATA..

OPEN  
YOUR EYES...  
PLEASE!!





FOR THAT  
ALONE YOU  
DESERVE  
TO DIE!!!



I SAID,  
STOP  
IT!



BAFFLE!!  
STOP  
THAT AT  
ONCE--!!



FOO!!  
WEAVING  
A CAT'S  
CRADLE, ARE  
WE, BOY?  
RISKING YOUR  
LIFE ON A  
GAME?



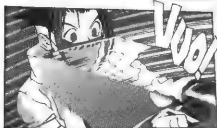
SO...  
ANGOSTURA'S SON.  
WHAT DO YOU THINK  
YOUR OLD MAN WOULD  
SAY IF HE COULD SEE  
YOU NOW? I IMAGINE  
IT'D BE TOO MUCH  
TO BEAR.

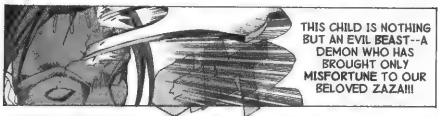
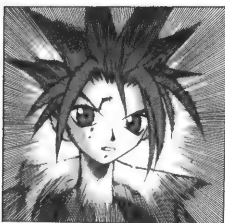


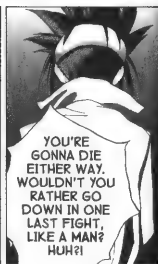
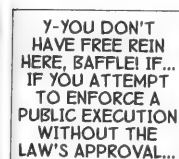
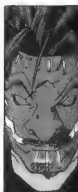
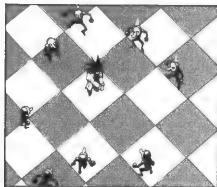
ALLOWING  
THIS WHELP  
TO LAY HIS  
HANDS ON THE  
COUNTLESS LIKE  
THAT...NOT TO  
MENTION MY  
YOUNGER  
BROTHER!!!



!?

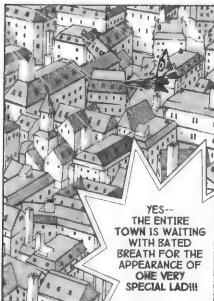
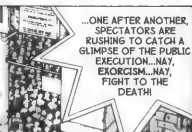














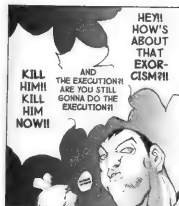
WHOOOSH



HMM...  
SO YOU  
CAME.



...THE  
LASTING,  
BITTER  
TASTE OF  
IMPARTIAL  
LAW!!!



HEY!  
HOW'S  
ABOUT  
THAT  
EXOR-  
CISM!!  
AND  
THE EXECUTION!!  
ARE YOU STILL  
GONNA DO THE  
EXECUTION!!  
KILL  
HIM!!  
KILL  
HIM  
NOW!!



ALL  
RIGHT...  
TAKE IT  
EASY.



...BUT IF  
POSSIBLE,  
I WANT THE  
LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN  
OF THE  
CROWD TO  
RELISH...



THE  
COOKING  
PROCESS  
WILL TAKE  
SEVERAL  
SECONDS,  
PERHAPS...



MORNING?  
YES, IT IS  
MORNING.



AFTER  
ALL, WHEN  
THIS STAR  
EMERGED AS A  
WHITE SPECK,  
COUNTLESS  
BILLIONS OF  
YEARS AGO...



OUR  
STAR HAS  
RISEN  
ONCE  
MORE...  
AND  
WHAT A  
BLESSED  
STAR  
IT IS.



...IT  
WAS NOT  
TOO CLOSE,  
NOT TOO FAR...  
NOT TOO HOT,  
NOT TOO  
COLD...





NO ONE  
COULD SEE  
WHAT I COULDN'T.  
THAT I WAS  
OBLIVIOUS TO  
THE RISING SUN'S  
BRILLIANCE!!



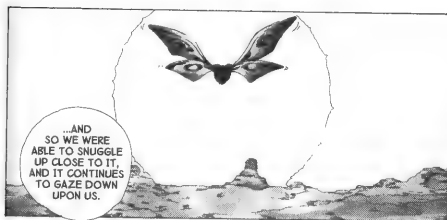
...I COULD  
NOT SEE...



...IN MY  
IGNORANCE...



AND  
SO...



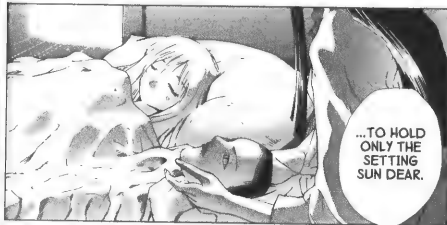
...AND  
SO WE WERE  
ABLE TO SNUGGLE  
UP CLOSE TO IT,  
AND IT CONTINUES  
TO GAZE DOWN  
UPON US.



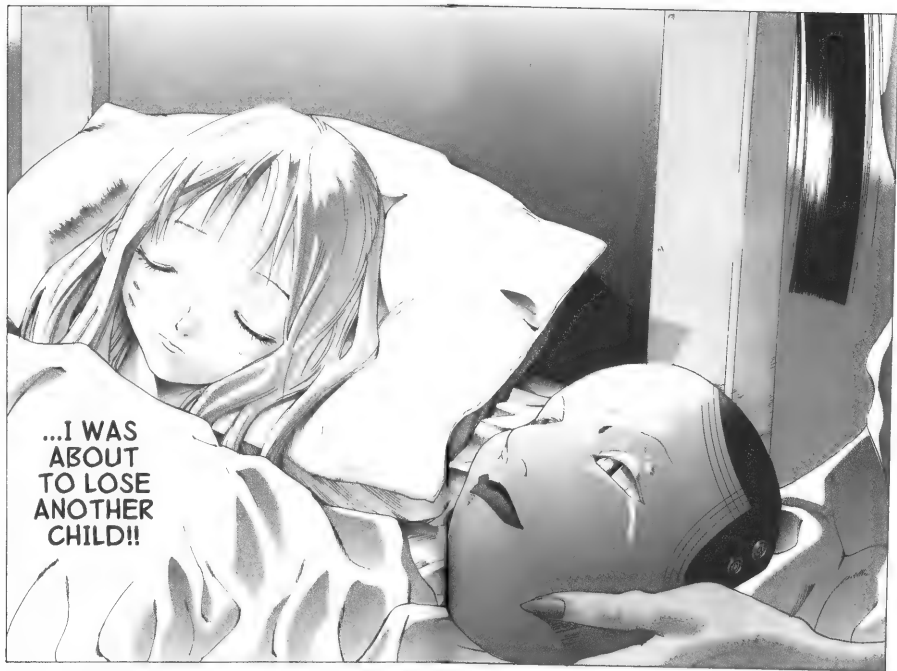
BUT  
I WAS A  
FOOL...



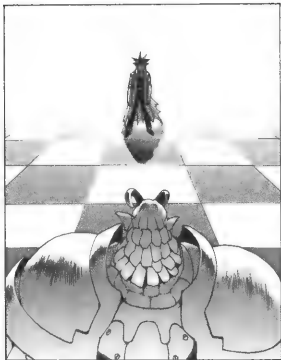
LONG,  
LONG AGO,  
WORDS LIKE  
"FAVORED SON"  
OFTEN FLOATED  
AROUND THESE  
SQUARES.



...TO HOLD  
ONLY THE  
SETTING  
SUN DEAR.



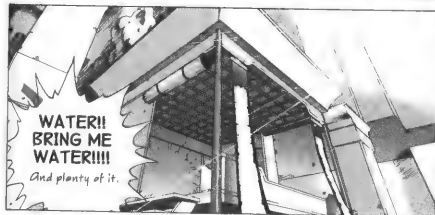
...I WAS  
ABOUT  
TO LOSE  
ANOTHER  
CHILD!!

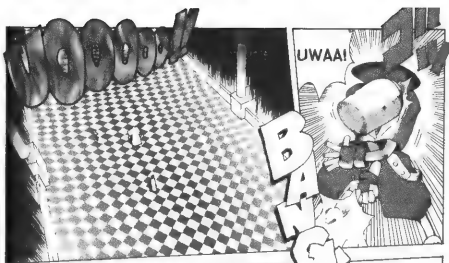
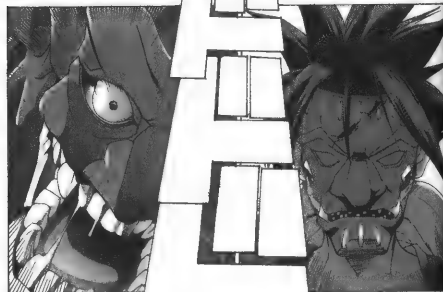


WATER,  
WATER...  
OKAY!!



WA...  
WATER...  
BRING ME  
WATER...



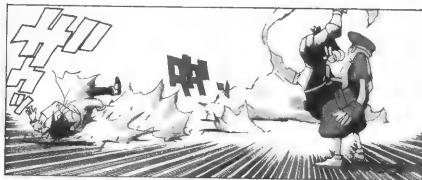


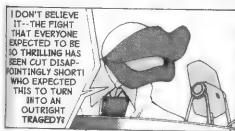
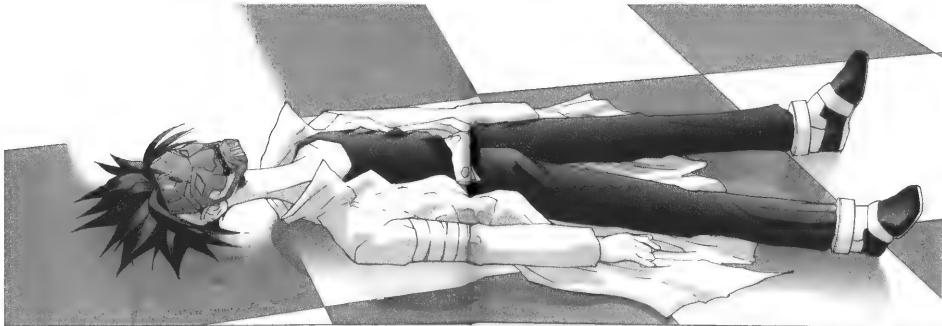


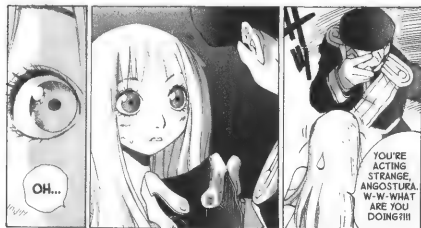


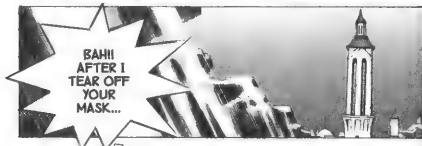
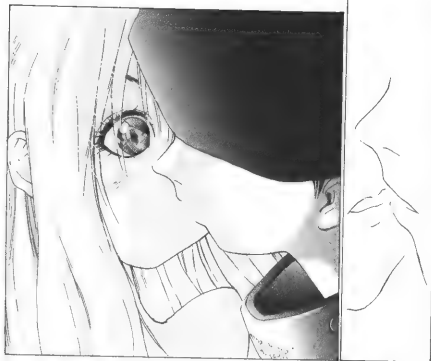


24th SHOT- WALTZ OF THE WIND

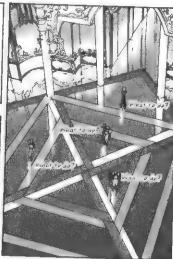




















THAT'S IT!!  
THAT'S THE  
SMELL...



UOOOO  
OOOH...



...A  
BURNING  
SMELL...  
I'D FOR-  
GOTTEN  
IT FOR  
SO MANY  
YEARS...



W-W-  
W-W-  
WHAT?!



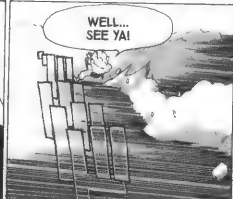
HAH-  
YA!



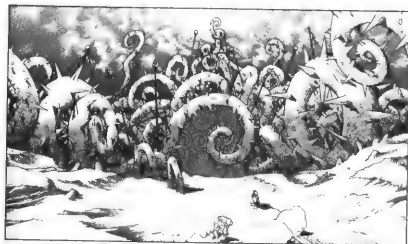
BAFFLE  
?!

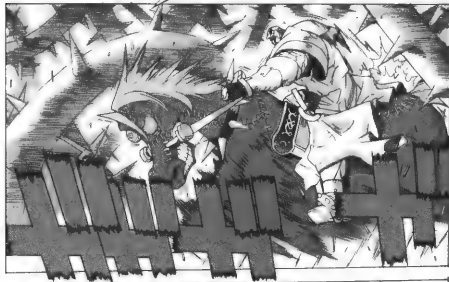


HEY! THIS IS  
NO TIME FOR  
TOUCHING  
DEPARTURES!!



WELL...  
SEE YA!





YOU KNOW,  
CHEF  
BAFFLE--  
IT IS THE  
HARVEST  
SEASON!!



AND IT SEEMS  
AUTUMN'S COMING  
EVEN TO THIS  
DESOLATE FIELD...WITH  
A LARGE, ABUNDANT  
CROPII

SEE?

GRRRRRR  
RRRR!!



LOOK...  
LARGE  
FRUIT,  
COMING  
THIS WAY...

...OVER  
MY HEAD...

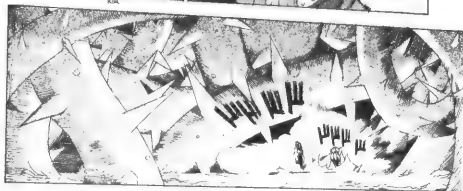


UH, SURE.  
WELL, WE'RE OFF!  
SEE YOU IN OH,  
SEVENTY YEARS!

*Or whatever your life  
expectancy is up*



I SURE  
LOVE THE  
SMELL OF  
BURNING  
FLESH.  
DON'T  
YOU?





...AND  
ONTO  
YOURS!

**YOU  
IDIOT  
!!!**

I humbly borrow the face as promised .  
many thanks.  
— The King of Bandits



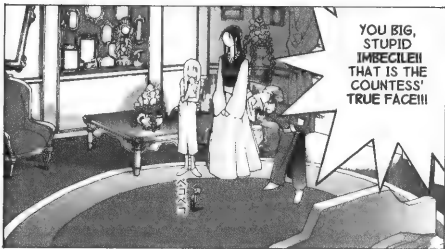
IT'S  
ALL  
RIGHT  
NOW.



EVERY-  
THING...  
IS ALL  
RIGHT.



YOU BIG,  
STUPID  
IMBECILE!!  
THAT IS THE  
COUNTESS'  
TRUE FACE!!



IF THE  
VINTAGE  
SMILE IS  
LOST... WELL,  
COME, YOU  
FOOL! HURRY,  
WE NEED TO PUT  
OUT A  
SEARCH AND  
ARREST...



THAT  
TYKE MADE  
YOU A CRIME  
ACCESSORY  
WITH NO  
EFFORT AT  
ALL, DIDN'T  
HE?



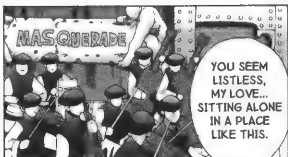
I HAVE NO  
USE FOR  
THAT MASK  
ANY LONGER.



HUH?

HALT,  
SOLDIER.





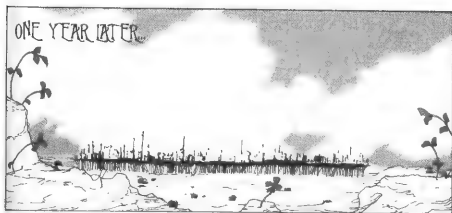
YOU SEEM  
LISTLESS,  
MY LOVE...  
SITTING ALONE  
IN A PLACE  
LIKE THIS.



IF  
I MAY...  
WILL YOU  
BESTOW ME  
THE HONOR  
OF A  
WALTZ?



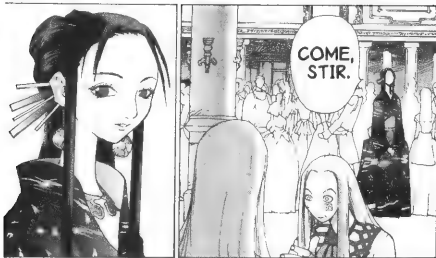
MADemoiselle...  
MADemoiselle  
STIR!



WELL,  
YES...  
I AM  
DOING  
QUITE  
WELL,  
BUT...



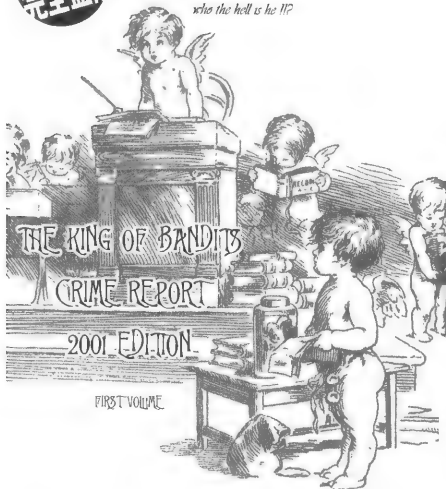
YOU  
ARE  
WELL,  
ARE  
YOU  
NOT?







who the hell is he !!?



On the surface, *Jing: King of Bandits* appears to be merely an action series about a master thief in a fantasy world. But at second glance, the series is full of hidden puns and inside jokes that occur on many different levels. Here, author Yuichi Kumakura helps us plumb the depths of this deceptively simple series.

Jing will return in volume 6

## Vodka [Vodka]

An alcohol distilled from potatoes, as well as grains such as rye and barley, fermented in malt. It has become an integral part of the culture in cold nations like Russia, and is known for its tendency to produce alcoholics. Speaking of Russia, is it just me or does Vodka, the boss of the first gang of thieves Jing encounters, look like an old man from the northern meridian passage?

## Shi-Doré [Cidre]

The name of Cidre, whose heart is the very first treasure captured by Jing, is taken from fruit wine fermented from apple juice. A cheap alcohol that has recently become available in convenience stores, its alcohol content is pretty low. So it is well-suited to such a fragile, crystalline creature.

## Roze [Rose]

White and red wines are well-known, but there is another type of wine known as Rosé. Its beautiful pink color makes for an impressive appearance—"Rosé" actually just means rose-colored. The perfect name for a feisty, optimistic policewoman! Her father's name is never mentioned, by the way.

## Gorappa [Grappa]

A huge piggy bank full of suspicious gold coins, as it turned out. Grappa's name comes from another type of brandy that is fermented from wine grapes, but is made in Italy. So, naturally, its dignified taste immediately caused the image of a casino boss, wearing steam-armor, to flash before my eyes!

## Tomo & Jeri [TOM & JERRY]

Speaking of cartoons, this name also refers to the two main characters of another globally recognized cartoon. But while it does cause two particular animals to come to mind, there is also a drink crowned with this name. It is a mixture of rum, brandy, sugar and egg, and I understand that people often drink it on Christmas Day.

It is well-known among King of Bandits fans that the names of almost all characters in the Jing world are taken from the names of alcoholic beverages. Furthermore, all of the towns that Jing and Kir visit carry the names of cocktails--mixtures of said alcohol. In this "crime report," we will explore the origins of these zinky characters and settings. Oh, and while we're on the subject, let's address one of the most common questions asked in fan letters to Yuichi Kumakura: "Do you really drink?" He assure you, Kumakura does not drink nearly as much alcohol as these books would imply--seems he's just not the type.

## Jin [Gin-Jing]

Gin is a distilled alcohol made by drenching the contents of the needle juniper in alcohol. Actually, it was originally used in Holland for medical purposes; specifically, as a fever reducer. Today, it is distinguished among the hard liquors by its unique flavor. Jing was originally spelled "Ging," but when the title was incorporated into the logo, it was decided that Japanese people might be confused as to how to pronounce it, since "G" has both a hard and a soft sound in English. Thus, we have the current spelling: "JING."

## Ki-Re [Kir]

Kir is a cocktail made by filling a glass of Crème de Cassis (an alcohol distilled from Cassis, a black berry native to Eurasia) with chilled white wine. It is said the name comes from the then-mayor of Dijon, a city in Burgundy, France. So why was this name chosen for Kir? Can't tell you that, but many believe the name is intricately tied to his mysterious origins.

## Ki-Re Rowaigaro [Kir Royale]

A specific variation of the above Kir where champagne is added instead of ordinary white wine. In other words, it's a Kir with a high-class connotation. Then again, it seemed like a good idea to add "Royale" (meaning of the king, or of the crown), since it goes with the whole "King" of Bandits theme.

## Konyakku [Cognac]

A brandy specifically manufactured in the Cognac region of France. Many believe this particular drink gave rise to the practice of field-dilapidation during religious wars, but looking through the cynical eye of history, one notices that miserable times tend to produce mellow drinks. With that in mind, is Cognac not an appropriate moniker for the mayor of an entire city of ill-intentioned thieves?

### Eggnoggo [Egg Nogg]

A shake-style cocktail that combines brandy with milk, eggs, sugar and often various other liqueurs. Since it is the name of a group of characters, a cocktail name seemed more appropriate than any single type of drink. I can also say that since it is actually a group of *steel* roosters, choosing a drink with the word "egg" in it seemed natural.

### Sheri [Sherry]

Refers to a type of strongly alcoholic wine made around Jerez, a city in the south of Spain. It is mainly known for its unique taste, which comes from the addition of yeast. Also, this spelling is similar to "Shelley," the name of the author of "Frankenstein." As if any sort of connection could be made between a female fox and the founder of modern-day horror.

### Korokkodairō [Cockdile]

wani = crocodile, and tobai = a juxtaposition of clocks.

### Sangoria [Sangria-Sungria]

A popular Spanish wine with the added sweetness of orange and lemon juices. The spelling became "Sungria" in the series, but it was quite intentional, as the addition of the "Sun" suggests a more fitting destination for Jing's gang and the porveras, who set out from Neptune.

### Sharōtorō-Zu [Chartreuse]

A liqueur originally distilled from medicinal plants at the Chartreuse Monastery in France. A great amount of this liqueur, said to be an elixir for long life, was made by the monks. Izarra's father, on the other hand, would probably have been dealing in star gems...but the details of his life are unknown.

### Izara [Izarra]

Izarra is in the same group of herb-based liqueurs as Chartreuse. No accident--it reflects Chartreuse and Izarra's parent-child relationship. Made in the region of Basque, situated in the Pyrenees mountains between France and Spain where it is said that Hemingway loved to drink. By the way, Izarra means "star" in the Basque language. What a coincidence...

### Boro-Hawaii [Blue Hawaii]

A shaker-style cocktail using rum as a base and adding orange-flavored liqueur, Blue Curaçao, pineapple juice and lemon juice. This town, as it appears in the series, is a far cry from the image Hawaii usually brings to mind--it was conceived more as a bluish, chilling former resort town.

### Morōtekarōn [Mortecalon]

This is an anagram of the famous Monte Carlo, which is basically a government-run casino. But "Morte" connotes death in French, so it is a very meaningful name when you consider this casino's true colors.

### Adoniso [Adonis]

This drink, which takes its name from a pretty-boy loved by Venus in ancient mythology, is a stir-type cocktail (mixed with a bar spoon) using vermouth and orange bitters in dry cherry. That's why it was chosen as this city's name: it symbolizes the parallel of the mythological story with the strange relationship between a nine-tailed fox who possesses a mysterious mind-control technique, and the city's beautifully formed young lord.

### Miraberu [Mirabelle]

A type of brandy made from plums. When this character is about to be executed, even as they are about to cut off her head, her braids are reminiscent of an episode that Thomas Moore, author of the 18th-century novel "Utopia," wrote about not cutting his hair before his death sentence.

### Van Mesa [Vins Mousseux]

This French term is a general reference to sparkling wine, so it is quite suitable as a name for a ruler of a town famous for the cultivation of clockwork grapes. His popular name, of course, is "Mastergear," but that, of course, was just to express his being the most important "gear" controlling a town entirely run by gears.

### Pernod [Pernod]

Pernod was once synonymous with Absente, called the "Devil's alcohol," because of its inclusion of absinthe, a powerful hallucinogen that invades the nervous system. Now that Absente is no longer in production, a new production method has been discovered using medicinal plants. The inspiration for Pernod in this series was apparently Malcolm MacDowell of "Clockwork Orange," directed by Stanley Kubrick (this is especially apparent on page 106 of Volume Three). You see what I mean, right? The unnerving gaze...the makeup around the eyes...

### Rinairi [China Lillet]

China Lillet is a flavored wine made from the bark of herbs in the China family. This wine was once used for the medical treatment of malaria. It goes particularly well with Pernod--in fact, the relationship between these two characters seems similar to the dynamic between the two main characters in my personal manga masterpiece! Speaking of which, the makeup on China Lillet's face is kind of familiar...

### Koantoro [Cointreau]

An orange, spicy fruit liqueur, produced by the Cointreau company in France. This immortal king may wear a crown, but he is not necessarily at the height of fashion. This manga really does defy traditional fantasy stereotypes, eh?

### Vila-Ro [Vilare]

A huge but obedient robot. Its name comes not from alcohol, but the name of a developer of everlasting engines which were carried on the back of the shoulders (history verifies this). It is interesting to note that the passage Vilare reads to the dead Cointreau is the opening paragraph of an actual book. Those readers who are interested may have fun trying to find it.

### Tambora [Tumbler]

A tumbler, aside from being Izarra's family name, is a cylindrical cocktail glass. It is used for gin and tonics and the like. Another name for it is a highball glass. It can hold anywhere from 180-300ml of liquid. On (or is? hyle, hyle) the other hand...

### Gobaretto [Goblet]

This is a type of glass with legs that is used for beer and such. It has a capacity of around 300ml. In a nutshell, this episode is pretty much a showdown of the "glasses." Incidentally, the glass Goblet holds during the meal scene is somewhere roughly between a wine glass and a goblet.

### Rejo [Rejo]

One of Goblet's twin sons is called Rejo, which means "red" in Spanish (it's pronounced "ro-ko"). So, one would only assume that the other son would be named Blanco ("white")!

### Porovo-Ra [Porvora]

Particularly popular, maybe because one or two of them were a struggle even for Jing, were the Porvoras. However, "Porvora" is one of the few names in the series that are not alcoholic in origin--it actually means "gunpowder" in Spanish!

### Ko-Rusu RibaiBa [Corpse Reviver]

Jing and Kir set off from the town of Corpse and arrive in the town of Reviver...together, these towns make up the cocktail name of Corpse Reviver. This stir-type beverage, touted by some as a hangover cure, is made with Vermouth, brandy, and small amounts of liqueurs such as Cointreau, China Lillet, Pernod, etc. in a base of dry gin.

### Berumotto [Vermouth]

A type of flavored wine with added spice, fruits, and sugar. France and Italy are its main production centers. When the series came out, its author was reported as saying that Vermouth was designed after Natalia Portman's character in Luc Besson's film, "The Professional." There's definitely similarity in the hair...

# 王ドロボウJING KING OF BANDITS

The sky is the limit when Jing and Kir end up on cloud pipe... after stealing a map of Fozzy Navel. The terrible twosome receive a shock from worshippers of electricity, run into a very pretty little kitty, and try to avoid sleeping with the flying fishes.

Give a gift and  
say your prayers—  
this volume of  
Jing King of Bandits  
is the cat's meow!



## Sevendesu Hebon [Seventh Heaven]

Seventh Heaven is where the highest-ranking angels reside in Islam. This name, however, refers to a shake-type cocktail that adds Maraschino and grapefruit juice to dry gin. It seems that the historic Castel Sant'Angelo, located in central Rome, became the model for this giant prison. The real castle actually was used as a prison, and also has a story attached to it about a man who somehow broke out of the place! With that man was the 14th-century chaser (or metal engraver) of Firenze, Benvenuto Cellini!! His detailed autobiography was recently assembled, and the first and last volumes are currently being sold by Iwanami Books in Japan. If you read it, I am fairly certain you will discover a surprising parallel with the story behind Seventh Heaven...

## Aka Shia [Acacia]

Campari's hometown is named for a cocktail that involves adding Benedictine and Kirschwasser to dry gin and shaking well. Acacia may also sound familiar if one has heard of the "Dalian of Acacia," series, a sequence of novels by Tabayuki Kiyooka. It evokes a very nostalgic image for me, so I felt it was a suitable name for the village sleeping within Campari's heart. Also, the clothing of the younger Campari, whom Jing and the gang come across during the dream sequence, makes me think of national clothes during the war in Japan. And the people who send him off are sort of like the people who lamented the young men's departure to the front. The image of a sorrowful people who could not avoid destruction hangs densely in the air...

## Benedikotin [Benedictine]

Comparable to the aforementioned Chartreuse, this is another liqueur made in monasteries from medicinal plants. Benedictine's holding a stick and a hula-hoop soon after entering the prison of dreams, along with much of the scenery that follows, was inspired by "Mystery and Melancholy of a Street," the work of an Italian painter, Giorgio de Chirico. The eerie dolls that chase Jing and the gang afterwards, and in fact most of the images of the prison of dreams, were largely inspired by de Chirico's works.

End of King of Bandits Crime Report, First Volume  
Continued in Volume 6